

Immediate release:

LIVELY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED FOR DUBLIN BOOK FESTIVAL *Inaugural Festival Attracts Top Children's Authors*

DUBLIN, 25 February – The organisers of the inaugural Dublin Book Festival today announced a lively children's programme featuring readings by some of Ireland's best-loved children's authors, including Marita Conlon-McKenna, Judi Curtin, Eddie Lenihan, Tom McCaughren, Enda Wyley and many others.

The programme was launched during a special reading for children by the acclaimed traditional storyteller, Niall de Burca, at Dublin City Library and Archive.

Programme highlights include: a reading by the author of the award-winning 'Famine Trilogy', Marita Conlon-McKenna; Irish-language readings by Riona Nic Congáil, Laoise Ní Chomhraí and Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair; as well as storytelling sessions by traditional storyteller, Eddie Lenihan.

Conlon-McKenna's first book, *Under The Hawthorn Tree, Children of the Famine* (1990) was an international success, winning the International Reading Association Award and the Reading Association of Ireland Award. The sequel, *Wild-flower Girl*, was published in 1991 and won a Bisto Book of the Year Award (Historical Novel). *Fields of Home* (1996), the final book in the trilogy, was also a bestseller. Marita's other children's books include the bestseller *The Blue Horse* (1992), *No Goodbye* (1994), *Safe Harbour* (1995), *Granny McGinty* (1999), *In Deep Dark Wood* (1999), and *A Girl Called Blue* (2004).

The inaugural Dublin Book Festival is organised by the Irish Book Publisher's Association (CLÉ) and supported by the Arts Council; the Department of Art, Sport and Tourism; Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge; Dublin City Council; Dublin City Libraries and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Alan Hayes, vice president of CLÉ, said the festival is "a celebration of the diversity and creativity in contemporary Irish writing and publishing.

"We are delighted to showcase to the public the immense literary talent that exists in Ireland today and invite everyone to come along and see the best of Irish writing and publishing in a great festive and family-friendly environment."

The festival takes place in Dublin's historic City Hall between 7 and 9 March. All events are open to the public and entry is FREE.

The festival will be officially launched by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Michael Brennan on Wednesday, 27 February 2008.

Further information in relation to the festival is available from Gert Ackermann:

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Festival dates and times: Friday 7 March, Saturday 8 March, Sunday 9 March, 10am to 6pm daily

Venue: Dublin's City Hall on Dame Street

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

High-resolution images and biographies are available.

For more information on Niall de Burca please visit www.storyteller.ie.